

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.

ATTENTION VOTERS!



Become a fan of
**U.S. Embassy
Ulaanbaatar, Con-
sular Section** on
Facebook.

There was controversy with the wording of block one of the revised 08/2011 versions of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB). Both forms must now receive OPM approval and the public comment period is now open. Private U.S. citizens have until May 31, 2013 to submit their comments via the links below.

To view Federal Register Notices:

FPCA: <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-07485>

FWAB: <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-07486>

To view Draft Forms and submit comments:

FPCA: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=DOD-2013-OS-0061>

FWAB: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=DOD-2013-OS-0065>

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CONSULAR OUTREACH

Vice Consul Dianna Palequin visited MUST (Mongolian University of Science and Technology) on April 3rd and spoke to around 60 students. Vice Consul Palequin spoke about studying in the United States and the importance of thoroughly researching schools and programs. One of the U.S. government funded scholars shared her experiences in the U.S. Most of the students' questions were about tuition fees, adapting to a new environment and the visa interview.



SECURITY ADVISORY

As the weather warms and the days become longer, people from all walks of life spend more time outside and attempt to break the solitude of being trapped inside during the cold winter months and unfortunately this includes criminals.

Spring time historically sees an increase in pick pockets, assaults, sexual assaults, and rapes. Mongolians chalk this phenomenon up to “Spring Madness.”

The spring thaw usually sees an increase in street assaults as we all hit the street for a daytime stroll to enjoy the above freezing temperature and thereby providing an easy target of opportunity for criminals. Assaults can occur anywhere at any time. Additionally, as we peel away and store the heavy winter jackets, we make ourselves vulnerable to pick pockets. The heavy winter jackets provided an extra layer of protection against wandering hands when at the supermarket or walking around tourist attractions. As the nights become warmer, street children and beggars will become more aggressive in their actions around the expat restaurants, bars, and supermarkets. If a specific establishment is known to have aggressive beggars frequent the perimeter with no security staff on hand, we advise you to avoid the establishment and take your business elsewhere. Finally, complaints to the establishment’s management about the aggressive beggars and the threat of taking your business elsewhere will hopefully alert them to the problem and the need to take immediate action.

All American citizens are reminded to exercise caution and good judgment:

- Avoid going anywhere alone. If you must travel alone, ensure you have your cell phone and that someone is aware of your plans.
- Be vigilant of your surroundings, even the area near your home can be a dangerous place.
- Maintain a low profile; do not draw unnecessary attention to yourself.
- When driving, ensure that your doors are locked and windows closed.
- Know where the nearest safe havens are located (police booths, 24 hour shops, bus stops, and restaurants).

Thankfully, there is no evidence that indicates U.S. citizens are being specifically targeted in this seasonal increase in crime. We encourage everyone to commit themselves to taking that extra minute to think about doing the right thing as it pertains to security. If you are a victim of a crime, regardless of how minor you feel the incident was, please immediately contact the Consular Section. We cannot alert the American community of potentially new dangerous areas and criminal tactics without your input.

* Courtesy Regional Security Officer

DID YOU REMEMBER TO FILE YOUR TAXES ?

If not, don’t worry. If you reside overseas or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return until June 15. However, any tax due must have been paid by the original return due date (April 15) to avoid interest charges. Publication 4732 contains specific tax information for Americans living abroad and can be downloaded at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4732.pdf>.

STATE TAX RETURNS: For individual state income tax information, visit <http://www.taxadmin.org/>. The Embassy does not have state tax forms or state tax information.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:
"How can I capture a good photo for my baby's passport photo?"

Your photo is a vital part of your passport application. Please review the information here on how to provide a suitable photo to avoid passport processing delays:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/pptphotoreq/pptphotoreq_5333.html.

We recommend you use a professional passport photo service to ensure that your photo meets all the requirements. When taking a photo of your baby or toddler, no other person should be in the photo, and



Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
 Embassy of the United States
 11th Micro District
 Big Ring Road
 Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
 Tel: 976-7007-6001
 Fax: 976-11323-788
 After-hours
 or emergency number: 9911-4168
 E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov
 - or -
 American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
 4410 Ulaanbaatar Place
 Washington, DC, 20521-4410

your child should be looking at the camera with his or her **eyes open**.

Tip 1: Lay your baby on his or her back on a plain white or off-white sheet. This will ensure your baby's head is supported and provide a plain background for the photo. Make certain there are no shadows on your baby's face, especially if you take a picture from above with the baby lying down.

Tip 2: Cover a car seat with a plain white or off-white sheet and take a picture of your child in the car seat. This will also ensure your baby's head is supported.

Upcoming Holidays

May 27—Memorial Day

May 31—Mother and Child Day

Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Sudan](#) 04/16/2013
[Colombia](#) 04/11/2013
[Pakistan](#) 04/09/2013
[Lebanon](#) 04/01/2013
[Republic of South Sudan](#) 03/29/2013
[Egypt](#) 03/29/2013
[Mali](#) 03/22/2013
[Korea, Democratic People's Republic of](#) 03/14/2013
[Guinea](#) 03/14/2013
[Tunisia](#) 03/13/2013
[Libya](#) 03/11/2013
[Syria](#) 03/01/2013
[Kenya](#) 02/28/2013
[Iraq](#) 02/25/2013

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html